

and development activities conducted pursuant to such activities, including joint venture activities, is for the benefit of the participants (particularly domestic companies) that provide financial resources to a project under this title, the Secretary, for a period of up to 5 years after the development of information that—

(1) results from research and development activities conducted under this title; and

(2) would be a trade secret or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential if the information had been obtained from a participant,

shall, notwithstanding any other provision of law, provide appropriate protections against the dissemination of such information to the public, and the provisions of section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, shall apply to such information. Nothing in this subsection provides protections against the dissemination of such information to Congress. .

(b) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term “domestic companies” means entities which are substantially involved in the United States in the domestic production of motor vehicles for sale in the United States and have a substantial percentage of their production facilities in the United States.

SEC. 624. COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING LAW.

42 USC 13294

Nothing in this title shall be deemed to convey to any person, partnership, corporation, or other entity, immunity from civil or criminal liability under any antitrust law or to create defenses to actions under any antitrust law.

SEC. 625. ELECTRIC UTILITY PARTICIPATION STUDY.

42 USC 13295

The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, representatives of State regulatory commissions and electric utilities, and such other persons as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall undertake or cause to have undertaken a study to determine the means by which electric utilities may invest in, own, sell, lease, service, or recharge batteries used to power electric motor vehicles. .

SEC. 626. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

42 USC 13296

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for purposes of this subtitle \$40,000,000 for the 5-year period beginning with the first full fiscal year after the date of enactment of this Act, to remain available until expended.

TITLE VII—ELECTRICITY

Subtitle A—Exempt Wholesale Generators

SEC 711. PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANY ACT REFORM.

The Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (15 U.S.C.

79 and following) is amended by redesignating sections 32 and 33 as sections 34 and 35 respectively and by adding the following new section after section 31:

15 USC 79
79z-6

‘SEC. 32. EXEMPT WHOLESALE GENERATORS.

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) EXEMPT WHOLESALE GENERATOR.—The term ‘exempt wholesale generator’ means any person determined by the Fed-

eral Energy Regulatory Commission to be engaged directly, or indirectly through one or more affiliates as defined in section 2(a)(11)(B), and exclusively in the business of owning or operating, or both owning and operating, all or part of one or more eligible facilities and selling electric energy at wholesale. No person shall be deemed to be an exempt wholesale generator under this section unless such person has applied to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a determination under this paragraph. A person applying in good faith for such a determination shall be deemed an exempt wholesale generator under this section, with all of the exemptions provided by this section, until the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission makes such determination. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall make such determination within 60 days of its receipt of such application and shall notify the Commission whenever a determination is made under this paragraph that any person is an exempt wholesale generator. Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this section, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall promulgate rules implementing the provisions of this paragraph. Applications for determination filed after the effective date of such rules shall be subject thereto.

“(2) ELIGIBLE FACILITY.—The term ‘eligible facility’ means a facility, wherever located, which is either—

“(A) used for the generation of electric energy exclusively for sale at wholesale, or

“(B) used for the generation of electric energy and leased to one or more public utility companies, *Provided*, That any such lease shall be treated as a sale of electric energy at wholesale. for purposes of sections 205 and 206 of the Federal Power Act.

Such term shall not include any facility for which consent is required under subsection (c) if such consent has not been obtained. Such term includes interconnecting transmission facilities necessary to effect a sale of electric energy at whole sale. For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘facility’ may include a portion of a facility subject to the limitations if subsection (d) and shall include a facility the construction of which has not been commenced, or completed,

“(3) SALE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY AT WHOLESALE.—The term ‘sale of electric energy at wholesale’ shall have the same meaning as provided in section 201(d) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824(d)).

“(4) RETAIL RATES AND CHARGES.—The term ‘retail rates and charges’ means rates and charges for the sale of electric energy directly to consumers.

“(b) FOREIGN RETAIL SALES.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (a), retail sales of electric energy produced by a facility located in a foreign country shall not prevent such facility from being an eligible facility, or prevent a person owning or operating, or both owning and operating, such facility from being an exempt wholesale generator if none of the electric energy generated by such facility is sold to consumers in the United States.

“(c) STATE CONSENT FOR EXISTING RATE-BASED FACILITIES.—If a rate or charge for, or in connection with, the construction of a facility, or for electric energy produced by a facility (other than any portion of a rate or charge which represents recovery

of the cost of a wholesale rate or charge) was in effect under the laws of any State as of the date of enactment of this section, in order for the facility to be considered an eligible facility, every State commission having jurisdiction over any such rate or charge must make a— specific determination that allowing such facility to be an eligible facility (1) will benefit consumers, (2) is in the public interest, and (3) does not violate State law; Provided, That in the case of such a rate or charge which is a rate or charge of an affiliate of a registered holding company:

“(A) such determination with respect to the facility in question shall be required from every State commission having jurisdiction over the retail rates and charges of the affiliates of such registered holding company; and

“(B) the approval of the Commission under this Act shall not be required for the transfer of the facility to an exempt wholesale generator.

“(d) HYBRIDS—(1) No exempt wholesale generator may own or operate a portion of any facility if any other portion of the facility is owned or operated by an electric utility company that is an affiliate or associate company of such exempt wholesale generator.

“(2) ELIGIBLE FACILITY.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an exempt wholesale generator may own or operate a portion of a facility identified in paragraph (1) if such portion has become an eligible facility as a result of the operation of subsection (c).

“(e) EXEMPTION OF EWGS—An exempt wholesale generator shall not be considered an electric utility company under section 2(a)(3) of this Act and, whether or not a subsidiary company, an affiliate, or an associate company of a holding company, an exempt wholesale generator shall be exempt from all provisions of this Act.

“(f) OWNERSHIP OF EWGS BY EXEMPT HOLDING COMPANIES.— Notwithstanding any provision of this Act, a holding company that is exempt under section 3 of this Act shall be permitted, without condition or limitation under this Act, to acquire and maintain an interest in the business of one or more exempt wholesale generators..

“(g) OWNERSHIP OF EWGS BY REGISTER HOLDING COMPANIES—Notwithstanding any provision of this Act and the Commission’s jurisdiction as provided under subsection (h) of this section, a ‘registered holding company shall be permitted (without the need to apply for, or receive, approval from the Commission, and other- Wise without condition under this Act) to acquire and: hold the securities, or any interest in the business, of one or more exempt wholesale generator

“(h) .FINANCING AND OTHER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN EWGS AND REGISTERED HOLDING COMPANIES.—The issuance of securities by a registered holding company for purposes of financing, the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator, the guarantee of securities of an exempt wholesale generator by a registered holding company, the entering into service, sales or construction contracts, and the creation or maintenance of any other relationship in addition to that described in subsection (g) between an exempt wholesale generator and a registered holding company, its affiliates and associate companies, shall remain subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under this Act: *Provided, That—*

“(1) section 11 of this Act shall not prohibit the ownership of an interest in the business of one or more exempt wholesale generators. by a registered holding company (regardless of where facilities owned or operated by such exempt wholesale generators are located), and such ownership by a registered holding company shall be deemed consistent with the operation of an integrated public utility system;

“(2) the ownership of an interest in the business of one or more exempt wholesale generators by a registered holding company (regardless of where facilities owned or operated by such exempt wholesale generators are located) shall be considered as reasonably incidental, or economically necessary or appropriate, to the operations of an integrated public utility system;

“(3) in determining whether to approve (A) the issue or sale of a security by a registered holding company for purpose of financing the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator, or (B) the guarantee of a security of an exempt wholesale generator by a registered holding company, the Commission shall not make a finding that such security is not reasonably adapted to the earning power of such company or to the security structure of such company and other companies in the same holding company system, or that the circumstances are such as to constitute the making of such guarantee an improper risk for such company, unless the Commission first finds that the issue or sale of such security, or the making of the guarantee, would have a substantial adverse impact on the financial integrity of the registered holding company system;

“(4) in determining whether to approve (A) the issue or sale of a security by a registered holding company for purposes other than the acquisition of an exempt wholesale generator, or (B) other transactions by such registered holding company or by its subsidiaries. other than with respect to exempt whole- sale generators, the Commission shall not consider the effect f the capitalization or earnings of any subsidiary which is an exempt wholesale generator. upon the registered holding company system, unless the approval of the issue or sale or other transaction, together with the effect of such capitalization and earnings, would have a substantial adverse impact on the financial integrity of the registered holding company system;

“(5) the Commission shall make its decision under paragraph (3) to approve or disapprove the issue or sale of a security or the guarantee of a security within 120 days of the filing of a declaration concerning such issue, sale or guarantee; and

“(6) the Commission shall promulgate regulations with respect to the actions which would be considered, for purposes of this subsection, to have a substantial adverse impact on the financial integrity of the registered holding company system; such regulations shall ensure that the action has no adverse impact on any utility subsidiary or its customers, or on the ability of State commissions to protect such subsidiary or customers, and shall take into account the amount and type of capital invested in exempt wholesale generators, the ratio of such capital to the total capital invested in utility operations, the availability of books and records, and the financial and operating experience of the registered holding company

and the exempt wholesale generator; the Commission shall promulgate such regulations within 6 months after the enactment of this section; after such 6-month period the Commission shall not approve any actions under paragraph (3), (4) or (5) except in accordance with such issued regulations.

“(j) APPLICATION OF ACT TO TOERH ELIGIBLE FACILITIES.—In the case of any person engaged directly and exclusively in the business of owning or operating (or both owning and operating) all or part of one or more eligible facilities, an advisory letter issued by the Commission staff under this Act after the date of enactment of this section, or an order issued by the Commission under this Act after the date of enactment of this section, shall not be required for the purpose, or have the effect, of exempting such person from treatment as an electric utility company under section 2(a)(3) or exempting such person from any provision of this Act. .

“(j) OWNERSHIP OF EXEMPT WHOLESALE GENERATORS AND QUALIFYING FACILITIES – The ownership by a person of one or more exempt wholesale generators shall not result in such person being considered as being primarily engaged in the generation or sale of electric power within the meaning of sections 3(17)(C)(ii) and 3(18)(B)(ii) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796(17)(C)(ii) and 796(18)(B)(ii)).

“(k) PROTECTION AGAINST ABUSIVE AFFILIATE TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) PROHIBITION.—After the date of enactment of this section, an electric utility company may not enter into a contract to purchase electric energy at wholesale from an exempt wholesale generator if the exempt wholesale generator is an affiliate or associate company of the electric utility company.

“(2) STATE AUTHORITY EXEMPT FROM PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), an electric utility company may enter into a contract to purchase electric energy at wholesale from an exempt wholesale generator that is an affiliate or associate company of the electric utility company—

“(A) if every State commission having jurisdiction over the retail rates of such electric utility company makes each of the following specific determinations in advance of the electric utility company entering into such contract: .

“(i) A determination that such commission has sufficient regulatory authority, resources and access to books and records of the electric utility company and any relevant associate, affiliate or subsidiary company to exercise its duties under this subparagraph.

“(ii) A determination that the transaction –

“(I) will benefit consumers,

“(II) does not violate any State law (including where applicable, least cost planning),

“(III) would not provide the exempt wholesale generator any unfair competitive advantage by virtue of its affiliation or association with the electric utility company, and

“(IV) is in the public interest; or

“(B) if such electric utility company: is not subject to State commission retail rate regulation and the purchased electric energy:

“(i) would not be resold to any affiliate or associate company, or

“(ii) the purchased electric energy would be resold an affiliate or associate company and every State commission having jurisdiction over the retail rates of such affiliate or associate company makes each the determinations provided under subparagraph () including the determination concerning a State commission’s duties.

“(1) RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS PROHIBITED.—Reciprocal arrangements among companies that are not affiliates or associate companies of each other that are entered into in order to avoid the provisions of this section are prohibited.”.

SEC. 712. STATE CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECTS OF POWER PURCHASES ON UTILITY COST OF CAPITAL CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECTS OF LEVERAGED CAPITAL STRUCTURES ON THE RELIABILITY OF WHOLESALE POWER SELLERS; AND CONSIDERATION OF ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLIES.

Section 111 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2601 and following) is amended by inserting the following new paragraph after paragraph (9):

“(10) CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECT OF WHOLESALE POWER PURCHASES ON UTILITY COST OF CAPITAL; EFFECTS OF LEVERAGED CAPITAL STRUCTURES ON THE RELIABILITY OF WHOLESALE POWER SELLERS; AND ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FUEL SUPPLIES.—(A)

To the extent that a State regulatory authority requires or allows electric utilities for which it has ratemaking authority to consider the purchase of long-term’ wholesale power supplies as a means of meeting electric demand, such authority shall perform a general evaluation of:

“(i) the potential for increases or decreases in the costs of capital for such utilities, and any resulting increases or decreases in the retail rates paid by electric consumers, that may result from purchases of long-term wholesale power supplies in lieu of the construction of new generation facilities by such utilities;

“(ii) whether the use by exempt wholesale generators (as defined in section 32 of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935) of capital structures which employ proportionally greater amounts of debt than the capital structures of such utilities threatens reliability, or provides an unfair advantage for exempt wholesale generators over such utilities; .

“(iii) whether, to implement procedures for the advance approval or disapproval of the purchase of a particular long-term wholesale power supply; and

“(iv) whether to require as a condition for the approval of the purchase of power that there be reasonable assurances of fuel supply adequacy.

“(B) For purposes of implementing the provisions of this paragraph, any reference contained in this section to the date of enactment of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 shall be deemed to be a reference to the date of enactment of this paragraph..

“(C) Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal law, nothing in this paragraph shall prevent a State regulatory authority from taking such action, including action with respect to the allowable capital structure of exempt wholesale genera-

tors, as such State regulatory authority may determine to be in the public interest as a result of performing evaluations under the standards of subparagraph (A).

“(D) Notwithstanding section 124 and paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 112(a), each State regulatory authority shall consider and make a determination concerning the standards of subparagraph (A) in accordance with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section, without regard to any proceedings commenced prior to the enactment of this paragraph.

“(E) Notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of section 112, each State regulatory authority shall consider and make a determination concerning whether it is appropriate to implement the standards set out in subparagraph (A) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this paragraph.”.

SEC. 713. PUBLIC UTILITY HOLDING COMPANIES TO OWN INTERESTS IN COGENERATION FACILITIES.

Public Law 99—186 (99 Stat. 1180, as amended by Public Law 99—553, 100 Stat. 3087), is amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. Notwithstanding section 11(b)(1) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, a company registered under said Act, or a subsidiary company of such registered company, may acquire or retain, in any geographic area, an interest in any qualifying cogeneration facilities and qualifying small power production facilities as defined pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, and shall qualify for any exemption relating to the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 prescribed pursuant to section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978.

“SEC. 2. Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the applicability of section 3(17)(C) or section 3(18)(B) of the Federal Power Act or any provision of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, other than section 11(b)(1), to the acquisition or retention of any such interest by any such company.”.

SEC. 714. BOOKS AND RECORDS.

Section 201 of the Federal Power Act is amended by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

“(g) BOOKS AND RECORDS.—(1) Upon written order of a State commission, a State commission may examine the books, accounts, memoranda, contracts, and records of—

“(A) an electric utility company subject to its regulatory authority under State law,

“(B) any exempt wholesale generator selling energy at wholesale to such electric utility, and

“(C) any electric utility company, or holding company thereof, which is an associate company or affiliate of an exempt wholesale generator which sells electric energy to an electric utility company referred to in subparagraph (A), wherever located, if such examination is required for the effective discharge of the State commission’s regulatory responsibilities affecting the provision of electric service.

“(2) Where a State commission issues an order pursuant to paragraph (1), the State commission shall not publicly disclose trade secrets or sensitive commercial information.

“(3). Any United States district court located in the State in which the State commission referred to in paragraph (1) is located shall have jurisdiction to enforce compliance with this subsection.

“(4) Nothing in this section shall—

“(A) preempt applicable State law concerning the provision of records and other information; or

“(B) in any way limit rights to obtain records and other information under Federal law, contracts, or otherwise.

“(5) As used in this subsection the terms ‘affiliate’, ‘associate company’, ‘electric utility company’, ‘holding company’, ‘subsidiary company’, and ‘exempt wholesale generator’ shall have the same meaning as when used in the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935.”.

SEC. 715. INVESTMENT IN FOREIGN UTILITIES.

The Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 (15 U.S.C. 79 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 32 the following new section:

“SEC. 33. TREATMENT OF FOREIGN UTILITIES.

“(a) EXEMPTIONS FOR FOREIGN UTILITY COMPANIES .—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A foreign utility company shall be exempt from all of the provisions of this Act except as otherwise provided under this section, and shall not, for any purpose under this Act, be deemed to be a public utility company under section 2(a)(5), notwithstanding that the foreign utility company may be a subsidiary company, an affiliate, or an associate company of a holding company or of a public utility company.

“(2) STATE COMMISSION CERTIFICATION.—Section (a)(1) shall not apply or be effective unless every State commission having jurisdiction over the retail electric or gas rates of a public utility company that is an associate company or an affiliate of a company otherwise exempted under section (a)(1) (other than a public utility company that is an associate company or an affiliate of a registered holding company) has certified to the Commission that it has the authority and resources to protect ratepayers subject to its jurisdiction, and that it intends to exercise its authority. Such certification, upon the filing of a notice by such State commission, may be revised or withdrawn by the State commission prospectively as to any future acquisition. The requirement of State certification shall be deemed satisfied if the relevant State commission had, prior to the date of enactment of this section, on the basis of prescribed conditions of general applicability, determined that ratepayers of a public utility company are adequately insulated from the effects of diversification and the diversification would not impair the ability of the State commission to regulate effectively the operations of such company.

“(3) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘foreign utility company’ means any company that— “(A) owns or operates facilities that are not located in any State and that are used for the generation, transmission, or distribution of electric energy for sale or the distribution at retail of natural or manufactured gas for heat, light, or power, if such company—

“(i) derives no part of its income, directly or indirectly, from the generation, transmission, or dis-